

REMARKS

Claims 52-60 are pending in the present application. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for conducting the interview, and for clarifying the allowable subject matter in claims 54 and 55. Accordingly, claims 52, 59 and 60 were amended in this response. New claims 61-63 were added in this response. Claims 53-55 were canceled, without prejudice. No new matter has been introduced as a result of the amendments. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 52-53, 56-60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ramos* (U.S. Patent 5,896,533) in view of *Pratt* (U.S. Patent 5,564,044). Claims 54 and 55 were objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

In light of the present amendments, claims 52, 59 and 60 were amended to incorporate the allowable matter of claim 54. New claims 61-63 combine the allowable matter of (1) claims 52 and 55, (2) 59 and 55, and (3) claims 60 and 55, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants submit the present application is in allowable form. Applicants earnestly request an early Notice of Allowance.

If any fees are due in connection with this application as a whole, the Examiner is authorized to deduct such fees from deposit account no. 02-1818. If such a deduction is made, please indicate the attorney docket number (0115274-005) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,
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